

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

APRIL, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Vice President; Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also a few guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the March 9, 2011 regular meeting. A motion was made by F. Morris to approve the minutes as written. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

At this time President Black opened the floor to any of the guests that may wish to address the Board.

Ms. Deloris Angeli representing the Westpark Neighborhood Association then asked to address the Board.

Ms. Angeli presented the Board with a couple of sign samples and a map of a location in Monument Park where the Association was asking the Board to allow the sign to be placed. The sign would be a marker as an entry to the Westpark Neighborhood.

Mr. Black asked why would this sign be placed in Monument Park? He stated he has many reservations about allowing such a sign. He felt it would be confusing as there would be a sign in Monument Park that said Westpark. He also felt that allowing this sign would open the door to many other possible signs in the parks for other neighborhood associations, and then how could the Board say no.

Ms. Angeli stated that they had discussed placement of the sign in a private yard, but that it could be a problem with future owners. Both Mr. Black and the Director stated that was not necessarily so and that those things could be worked out.

Mr. Morris stated he agreed with the points Mr. Black had made concerning the sign placement in Monument Park.

Mr. Foltz suggested that the Board allow time so that drawings can be obtained of the planned improvements to 12th Street so that they can review them with regard to possible sign locations prior to making a decision.

Ms. Angeli stated they knew about the planned road improvements, but thought they were four years away.

The Board tabled the issue until the next meeting so that the drawings could be obtained. Ms. Angeli was invited back to that meeting.

The Board then returned to the Agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director informed the Board that Mr. Burns of the Law Department had recently told him that the historical information requested by the State had been sent to them on March 31st. The review of information had to go through three reviews so it may be several months before any new information would be available. The issue remained tabled.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director informed the Board that he had yet to get a map from the Engineering Department. They had been working on it, but they were very busy with other projects. The Director felt that they were close to being finished. Mr. Black stated he would talk to the City Engineer to see if the map could be finished soon. The issue remained tabled.
3. Possible Dominion easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director informed the Board that a recent email from Dominion stated that survey work would soon be done and then sent to us for review. After that an appraiser would begin the appraisal process. The Director stated that based on this information it would be sometime yet before a complete easement would be presented to the City. The issue remained tabled.
4. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - The Director informed the Board that the letter that was to be sent from the Ohio Plan has never been received; however, the Recreation District staff and Park staff were still planning finishing their inspection of playgrounds. The issue remained tabled.
5. Willig Field Paving Project - The Director stated this issue was back on the Agenda as City Council did not seem willing to approve an ordinance to allow the project to go forward.

Mr. Black stated that although he might understand not doing the project, the idea of using the bond money for the project to pay for other bond issues just smells.

Mr. Morris stated he had been informed that the ordinance would not come out of Committee.

Mr. Black stated that if that was the case then the Board would just have to move on.

6. Hall of Fame Festival Expense Recovery - Mr. Morris stated from the information received from the Director there were at least 50 sets of bleachers that the Chamber of Commerce sells seats for the parade. He stated that each seat sells for \$8.50 so he estimates that the Chamber takes in around \$28,000. Since the parks spend around \$15,000 in support of the event, they should be able to reimburse the Park System for their expenses. Mr. Black asked Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's office what the City did with regard to Police and Fire expenses? Mr. Gordon stated that the City just eats the costs.

Mr. Morris stated the Board would be the first to ask for their expenses back.

Mr. Black stated he did not want the Board to be left out to hang by the powers that be if it did pursue the issue. Mr. Morris stated he did not know what other departments of the City would do, but he felt the Board needs to look out for the parks. He also stated he had heard that the Park System may be asked for further cuts to their budget.

The Director pointed out that the Hall of Fame events were put on by two separate organizations: the Chamber of Commerce and the Hall of Fame themselves, and the Park System did things for both.

Mr. Gordon stated that the Director had a good point and that most people did not know that is the way it is.

It was stated that the Recreation District was also looking at the issue.

Mr. Black stated that maybe a letter could be sent to the Chamber as a start to look at this, but he wanted to know what the Recreation District was going to do so he stated he would attend their next meeting to ask them where they were going with the idea.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Greater Canton Veterans Council requesting to close Monument Park for the Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2011 - The Board reviewed this request. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the closing of the park for the parade. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
2. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on September 25, 2011, to hold their annual "Walk to Cure Diabetes" event - The Board reviewed the above request. A motion was then made to approve it with an insurance requirement by A. Black. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. O'Jay's Scholarship Foundation requesting to use Nimisilla Park on August 13 and 14, 2011 for the O'Jay's Homecoming Celebration Family Reunion - The Board reviewed the above request. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
4. Faith Family Church requesting to use Crenshaw Park on May 21st for softball, June 18 for volleyball, an outreach event on July 10 and an outdoor movie on August 27, 2011 - The Board reviewed the above requests. Concern was expressed about security at two of the events. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve them with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Canton Joint Recreation District requesting to name two of the ball fields at Willig Field after two long-serving Recreation Board members.

Mr. Black stated he had no major objections, but asked if this was the most appropriate way and places for these gentlemen.

Mr. Foltz stated he knew one of the two well and knew that he did coaching at Weis Park.

Mr. Black then made a motion to approve the requested naming of the fields pending any possible changes after he talked to the Recreation Board. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. The Stark County Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Outreach Project requesting to use Cook or Nimisilla Parks on June 19th, 2011, to hold their annual Juneteenth Celebration.

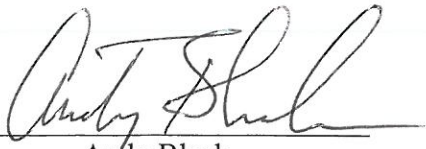
The Board reviewed this request, and then a motion to approve it with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. The Director informed the Board that he had in the past applied for funding to replace the Stadium track lights with LED style lights through the stimulus program. The Park System did not receive the funding for the project. He had, however, had a meeting with an LED supplier and Mr. Molina of the Traffic Engineering Department to look into if a light was available and what the cost would be to replace the light heads. After the meeting, the City Engineer had told him he had some leftover funds that could be used to replace some of the heads. The Director stated he would keep the Board informed as things develop.

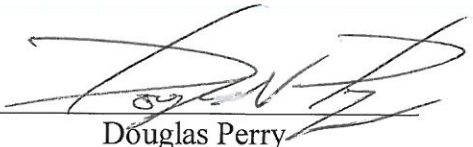
4. Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's Office informed the Board that a request for bids for recycle bins had been placed in the paper. The Director stated he had not been contacted with regard to the program. Mr. Gordon said they thought it would be best to see what kind of proposals would be made before meetings were held.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Gordon about what was happening at Munson Field. Mr. Gordon replied that the group leasing the facility had already made improvements and were making good progress. Mr. Gordon also stated that they were working on getting the other two fields constructed.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary